



Hydroxyurea

At the Clinical Center referred to as hydroxyurea (hye-DROX-ee-yoo-REE-ah).

How Given: Intravenously (by vein)

Drug Action: Hydroxyurea blocks a protein that cancer cells need to copy and repair DNA. DNA is the genetic material in cells that is used to make new cells.

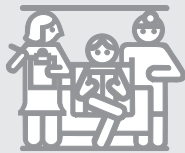
Side Effects:

1. Bone marrow effects can include a temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells.
2. Mild nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, and diarrhea can occur.
3. Skin rash and facial redness can occur within 7 to 14 days after starting treatment.
4. Headache and dizziness can occur.

Special Instructions:

1. Take anti-nausea medication as ordered.
2. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing products unless prescribed by your NIH doctor.
3. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
 - are unable to take your hydroxyurea
 - are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days after treatment

- have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) that last for 1 hour or occurs two times in a 24-hour period
- have any unusual bleeding or bruising
- have diarrhea for more than 2 days



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series
January, 1983; draft September, 1998
National Institutes of Health, CC
Nursing Department

Questions about the Clinical Center? OCCC@cc.nih.gov